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JUL 19 2007

Dkt. 2271/74479

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Goro KATSUYAMA ET AL.

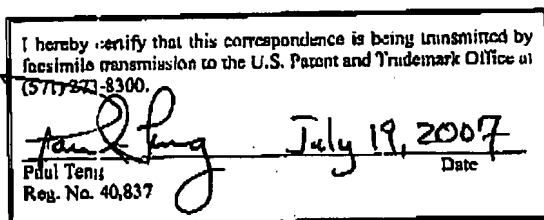
Serial No.: 10/536,741

Group Art Unit: 2861

Date Filed: May 27, 2005

Examiner: Joshua M. Dubnow

For: COMPACT FRONT-OPERABLE IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS



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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO
JUNE 27, 2007 OFFICE ACTION**

This Communication is submitted in response to the June 27, 2007 Office Action issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office which indicates that examination of the above-identified patent application will be restricted under 35 U.S.C. §121 and 372 to one of the following group of claims:

- Group I, claim(s) 1-6, drawn to an image forming apparatus with a slanted front face and the bottom side of which recedes backward;
- Group II, claim(s) 7-10, drawn to an image forming apparatus with a stripe-shaped dividing element;
- Group III, claim(s) 11, drawn to an image forming apparatus with a release mechanism that releases the pressure provided to the paper stack;
- Group IV, claim(s) 12-15, drawn to an image forming apparatus with a move mechanism that moves the paper feed tray in a direction opposite to the direction in which the paper is fed;

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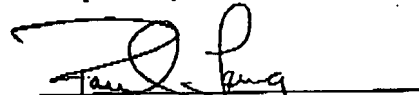
- Group V, claim(s) 16, drawn to a paper discharge tray with a slope on which the paper is stacked;
- Group VI, claim(s) 17-18, drawn to a paper discharge tray wherein side portions of the paper discharge tray in directions perpendicular to a direction in which the paper is discharged are lower than a middle portion;
- Group VII, claim(s) 19-23, drawn to an image forming apparatus with a detachable transport cover provided on a rear side of the image forming apparatus; and
- Group VIII, claim(s) 24-27, drawn to an image forming apparatus with a recording liquid cartridge that is disposed on a front face of the image forming apparatus.

Applicant hereby elects to prosecute Group I. Currently pending claims readable on Group I include claims 1-6.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this response and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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